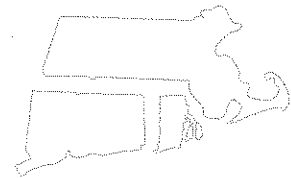




**Independent Electrical Contractors  
of New England, Inc.**



**Testimony  
Brian Bonner  
Independent Electrical Contractors of New England  
Before the  
Public Safety Committee  
February 7, 2013**

The Independent Electrical Contractors of New England (IEC-NE) opposes HB-5749 as currently drafted. Unfortunately this bill seems to contemplate moving in the opposite direction from solving the problem of having building codes updated in a more frequent and timely manner. Failure of the State of Connecticut to adopt electrical code changes has become a perennial problem and puts our citizens at risk.

In our industry, the National Electric Code is the most authoritative and comprehensive document on electrical safety. The Code addresses safety issues ranging from fire to electrocution. It is adopted and created through a series of panel discussions across the country with the input of the people in the industry. It is revised every three years to reflect new technologies, improved installation and safety practices and critical safeguards for consumers and people that work in the industry. By failing to adopt the 2008 and 2011 updates to the National Electrical Code, Connecticut has neglected to incorporate many important safety provisions designed to reduce injuries and deaths resulting from electro shock.

By adopting the latest edition of the NEC, you provide your constituents with an electrical code that has kept pace and with changes and updates in electrical safety technology, methods, and products and an electrical code that has responded a timely manner to industry and societal needs, i.e., ensuring minimum safety requirements are in place for wind and solar energies and making certain that expanding electric vehicle charging infrastructure will meet the demands of the industry and public safety. I have included two attachments for reference; the first is a map which shows that CT is one of only two states that is still on the 2005 NEC, the second is a document from NFPA which discusses the benefits of adopting the latest NEC which is signed by electrical industry leaders.

Failing to adopt the latest code also creates a disconnect between the code that is used in the field for enforcement purposes and the code that is used to train apprentices and test electrical license applicants. License testing is done by a national testing service that bases its tests on the latest published code. Since obtaining previous editions of the code books is very difficult, the latest edition is always taught to the apprentices in our state's Technical High Schools. Not surprisingly, this results in tremendous confusion in the field and with training. This is clearly a safety issue for the consumers in the state of Connecticut.

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Governor Malloy is striving to make our state a leader in the biotech industry and has committed millions of dollars towards this goal of being number one. This proposed legislation will take us even closer to being last of all the US states in regards to code adoption and even further behind our neighboring New England states, all of which adopt the latest code within twelve months of its publishing.

HB-5749 fails to address the concerns of our industry and we therefore urge the committee to take no action. In the alternative, IEC would offer our support for legislation such as HB-6301, proposed by Rep. Ackert, which calls for prompt revision of the state building code to recognize electrical standards. Furthermore, IEC feels that industry input in the code adoption process is vital and suggests a revision to the composition of the Code & Standards Review Committee to include a representative of the electrical industry and urge your support for such an amendment.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

## The Importance of Adopting the Latest Edition Of the National Electrical Code®

The undersigned members of the Electrical Code Coalition support direct adoption of the latest edition of the *National Electrical Code*. Direct adoption means that it is not adopted through a building code or other standard, but is directly adopted through direct legislative or administrative action. Direct action ensures that the requirements are not dependent on a code that is unrelated or only peripherally related.

*The latest edition represents the latest technological advances.* The NEC is revised every three years. Each edition goes through an extensive public vetting process to ensure that it meets technical and societal needs for minimum electrical safety.

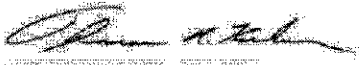
*Building inspection departments are evaluated by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) based on use of up to-date Codes and Standards.* Adoption of the latest edition of the NEC can result in lower insurance premiums for property owners in a jurisdiction.

*The National Electrical Code is responsive.* The Code is revised every three years to ensure that the requirements take into account the latest in technology and safety. This ANSI-based consensus process includes expertise from installers, inspectors, electric utilities, testing laboratories, manufacturers and others.

*Industry training programs and industry magazines and other resources support the current edition.* When the new edition is released, all of the industry resources switch their focus to the new edition. All of the trade magazines and industry web sites want to provide up-to-date information.

*Electricians and electrical inspectors trained and working to the current edition have increased opportunities.* Uniform adoption of the latest edition NEC across jurisdictions will help open up opportunities for electricians, contractors, and inspectors to work in various jurisdictions since they will all have been trained to the same technologically current, safety oriented code.

### The Electrical Code Coalition: An Industry Coalition Supporting Qualified Electrical Inspectors

  
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Brett Brenner, President  
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# NEC Adoption by State

= Subject to local adoptions

**Note** - New York City adopted 2008 NEC 6/27/11 with implementation

Reno

Southern Nevada

~~Phoenix implemented 2008 N~~

Utah adopted

Hawaii - 2008 NEQ

## Oklahoma Implementation of 201

2011 NEC – 19 State

2005 NEC – 2 State

2008 NEC — 21 State

### Local Adoption – (8)

South Carolina

Louisiana

Note: Some local adoption states have earlier than 2005 adoptions in some jurisdictions